

# Shiwiar language

**Shiwiar**, also known as **Achuar**, *Jivaro*, *Maina*, is a Jivaroan language spoken along the Pastaza and Bobonaza rivers in Ecuador.

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## Phonology

Achuar	
<i>Shiwiar</i>	
<b>Native to</b>	Peru, Ecuador
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Achuar people, Shiwiar
<b>Native speakers</b>	(undated figure of 3,000–3,500 in Peru) <sup>[1]</sup> 4,000 in Ecuador (2007) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Jivaroan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Achuar</li> </ul>
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	acu
<b>Glottolog</b>	achu1248 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/achu1248">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/achu1248</a> ) <sup>[3]</sup>

### Consonant phonemes<sup>[4]</sup>

	<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Postalveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>	<u>m</u>	<u>n</u>			<u>ɳ</u>	
<u>Stop</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>t</u>			<u>k</u>	<u>?</u>
<u>Affricate</u>		<u>ts</u>	<u>tʃ</u>			
<u>Fricative</u>		<u>s</u>	<u>f</u>		<u>x</u>	
<u>Approximant</u>				<u>j</u>	<u>w</u>	
<u>Tap</u>		<u>t̪</u>				

### Vowel phonemes<sup>[4]</sup>

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	<u>i</u> <u>ĩ</u> <u>i:</u>		<u>u</u> <u>ũ</u> <u>u:</u>
<u>Close-mid</u>		<u>ə</u> <u>ɛ</u> <u>ə:</u> <sup>[5]</sup>	
<u>Open</u>		<u>a</u> <u>ã</u> <u>a:</u>	

- /i/ and /u/ have slightly lowered allophones [ɪ] and [ʊ], respectively.<sup>[6]</sup>
- /a, ã, a:/ are phonetically central [a, ã, a:].[<sup>6</sup>]

- /a, ă/ (but not the long /a:/) have the following allophones: open central unrounded [a, ă], open-mid front unrounded [ɛ, ɛ̄], close-mid front unrounded [e, ẽ] and close-mid back rounded [o, õ].<sup>[6]</sup>

## References

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1. Achuar at *Ethnologue* (10th ed., 1984). Note: Data may come from the 9th edition (1978).
2. Achuar-Shiwiar (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/acu/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Achuar-Shiwiar" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/achu1248>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Fast Mowitz (1975), p. 10.
5. Lev, Stark & Chang (2012), citing the same source, give these instead as [i], [ɪ] and [i: ].
6. Fast Mowitz (1975), p. 2.

## Bibliography

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- Fast Mowitz, Gerhard (1975), *Sistema fonológico del idioma achual*, Lima: Instituto Lingüístico de Verano
- Lev, Michael; Stark, Tammy; Chang, Will (2012). "Phonological inventory of Achuar-Shiwiar" (<http://www.linguistics.berkeley.edu/~saphon/en/inv/Achuar.html>). *The South American Phonological Inventory Database* (version 1.1.3 ed.). Berkeley: University of California: Survey of California and Other Indian Languages Digital Resource.

## External links

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- Dryer, Matthew S.; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2013). "Achuar" ([http://wals.info/languoid/lect/wals\\_code\\_acr](http://wals.info/languoid/lect/wals_code_acr)). *World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.
- New Testament in Achuar (<https://www.bible.com/bible/4/jhn.1.acnt>)
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Achuar (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/Language.aspx?LangID=acr>)
- The Shiwiar Rainforest Initiative (<http://www.shiwiar.org>)
- Achuar–Shiwiar on Native Languages of the Americas (<http://www.native-languages.org/achuar.htm>)
- Listen to a sample of Achuar-Shiwiar from Global Recordings Network (<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/acu>)

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